

she had picked up cheaply in the store basement. She thrust the rest of her \$7-dollar-a-week salary into a pocket of her gingham apron and opened the bag to show her hat to Helen Smith, a clerk in her department on the grocery floor. Both girls were going to get their coats as the store had closed.

James McNeal, the negro elevator operator, smiled at the girls and looked around to see the hat. He hummed a happy tune because he was glad his work was done; and this was payday.

Then something happened.

McNeal shouted as he heard a crash in the elevator shaft above him. The elevator started slowly toward the roof, although the power was not on. The negro grabbed Helen, threw her from the car and leaped after her.

As the negro jumped Mary tried to get out. But the elevator caught and lifted her to the top of the doorway, where it held her as in a vise and slowly squeezed the breath from her body.

In a hurried investigation by the police and store officials blame was laid on faulty mechanism of the elevator. McNeal, the operator, they said, was one of the best in the store and he was not intoxicated when the accident occurred, they claim.

Sup't Bridges of Siegel's had the body removed to Ball's undertaking rooms at 502 S. Dearborn and called the Otis Elevator Co. to determine the cause of the trouble, which he laid to the lift.

From the undertakers the corpse was taken to 6626 Peoria st., the home of John Doolan, Miss Minnick's uncle, with whom she lived.

After questioning witnesses the police decided not to hold McNeal. They reported the accident as unavoidable.

The City News Bureau of Chicago, trust press newsgathering organ, sent out a report available to every

newspaper of the Newspaper Publishers' ass'n. Not one line was printed. The conspiracy of silence where a newspaper advertiser was hit worked perfectly.

Several queer features appeared in the case later. The police reported that the inquest over the girl's body would be held at Ball's morgue at 11 o'clock today. The quiz was really called at the home of the girl at 10.

When the deputy coroner arrived to start the inquest and take testimony, tending to lay the blame where it belonged, he found that not one witness was present. Not even the police who were called by the store managers right after the killing were there. No representative of Siegel-Cooper's was present and no one knew how the accident had happened. The coroner continued the inquest for investigation.

Helen Smith, the girl who had the narrow escape, has been confined to her home since the accident because of a sprained leg, sustained in her jump. She lives at 6935 S. Elizabeth st. McNeal is suffering from fright; his residence is at 3313 S. State st.

Miss Minnick's folks say that she has been working at Siegel's in the grocery department since 1912 and that she started work for \$5 a week. Sup't Bridges says that Miss Minnick did work for Siegel's in 1912, but that she left and has been there only seven months this last time. He admitted that her salary was \$7 a week when she was killed.

According to her folks the girl worked from 8:15 a. m. to 6 at night for this wage.

WILSON EXPECTED TO SPRING SOMETHING AT BALTIMORE

Asbury Park, N. J., Sept. 25.—President and Mrs. Wilson left Asbury Park for Baltimore at 9 a. m. today, where the president will deliver what Democratic leaders regard as an extremely important campaign speech.